

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please AMEND claims 1, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 12 and ADD new claims 13 and 14 in accordance with the following:

Sub C1
1. (currently amended) An information comparison display apparatus for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

an input information processing unit receiving character strings as the pieces of input information;

an information comparing unit comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

a color assigning unit assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison; and

B.
a color-assigned information providing unit outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside.

2. (cancelled)

Sub C1
3. (original) The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said information comparing unit defines elements which are common to the pieces of input information as the characteristic elements; and

said color assigning unit assigns the colors to the elements which are common to the pieces of input information.

4. (original) The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said information comparing unit defines elements which are not common to the pieces of input information as the characteristic elements; and

said color assigning unit assigns the colors to the elements which are not common to the pieces of input information.

5. (original) The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said information comparing unit compares the pieces of input information, in response to given information; and

said color assigning unit assigns the colors to elements corresponding to the given information, based on the results of comparison.

6. (original) The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a color changing unit changing a color defined by a user to another color in response to data entry by the user.

7. (currently amended) An The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising: for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

an input information processing unit receiving the pieces of input information;

an information comparing unit comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

a color assigning unit assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison;

a color-assigned information providing unit outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside;

a color changing unit changing a color defined by a user to another color in response to data entry by the user; and

an automatic color registering unit resetting a default value corresponding to the changed color, based on a history of color changes performed by said color changing unit.

8. (original) The information comparison display apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the pieces of input information are a series of related information.

9. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The information comparison display apparatus according to ~~claim 8~~, for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

an input information processing unit receiving the pieces of input information;

an information comparing unit comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

a color assigning unit assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison; and

a color-assigned information providing unit outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside, and

wherein the pieces of input information are a series of related information, and

wherein: said color assigning unit assigns the colors to the series of related information, according to an amount of change in attributes of the series of related information, including change of a display position of an element of the series of related information, based on the results of comparison between the series of related information.

10. (currently amended) ~~An~~ The information comparison display apparatus according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~, further comprising: for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

an input information processing unit receiving the pieces of input information;

an information comparing unit comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

a color assigning unit assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison;

a color-assigned information providing unit outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside; and

a color-assignment data arranging unit selecting a new color, or thinning out the preset default values or data of the colors defined by each user when the number of the colors corresponding to the preset default values or the colors defined by each user does not agree with the number of colors required to display the results of comparison so that these numbers agree.

11. (currently amended) An information comparison display method for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

receiving character strings as the pieces of input information;
comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;
assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison; and
outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside.

12. (currently amended) A computer-readable portable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to perform a process for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, said process comprising:

receiving character strings as the pieces of input information;
comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;
assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison; and
outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside.

13. (new) An information comparison display method, comprising:

designating one or more target character strings;
scanning an input source for the target character strings;
assigning a color to each frequency of occurrence of the target character strings in the

input source; and

displaying the input source with the target character strings noted by the assigned colors.

14. (new) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein said designating comprises scanning the input source to determine common character strings and specifying the common character strings as the target character strings.
